(a) whether Government is going to make a provision for constitution of special courts for hearing into offences against women or for their hearing in Fast Track Courts;

(b) if so the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken to ensure justice for women?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) Government has no proposal at present for constitution of Special Courts as Fast Track Courts for hearing crimes against women. However, the State Governments can constitute special courts in consultation with the respective High Courts.

Road-map for judicial reforms

1709. DR. K. MALAISAMY:
SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the stage of the road-map for judicial reforms;

(b) the details as to the features of the proposed reforms; and

(c) whether such reforms would reduce the pendency of cases and ensure quick and effective justice to the aggrieved litigants?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) The Governmet is preparing a roadmap for judicial reforms in the country which aims, *inter alia*, at reducing pendency in the courts, at providing quick and effective justice, introducing accountability of the judges and bringing in transparency in judicial processes for the litigants. The details of the roadmap are being worked out.

Pendency of court cases

†1710. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the pendency of cases runs into lacs and the main reason behind this pendency is the nature of present judicial procedures and the system, and the shortage of staff;

(b) if so, whether Government is working on any concrete and effective plan to expedite justice and for disposal of pending cases; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) Over three crore cases are pending in the courts. Vacancies in the subordinate judiciary and shortage of staff in the Subordinate Courts are among of the reasons for pendency.

(b) and (c) Expeditious disposal of cases is exclusively within the domain of the Judiciary. Government has, however, taken several steps to facilitate disposal of cases in the courts, including pending cases which include:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(1) Increasing the strength of judges in the High Courts and Subordinate Courts.

(2) 'Fast Track Courts' extended upto 31.3.2010.

(3) Introduction of some legislative measures for improvement in judicial procedure and for expediting disposal of civil and criminal cases in courts. The Civil Procedure Code and Criminal Procedure Code have been amended and the concept of 'Plea-Bargaining' has been introduced.

(4) Alternative modes of disposal including mediation, negotiation and arbitration have been encouraged.

(5) Other measures like grouping of cases involving common questions of law, constitution of specialized benches, setting up of special courts and organizing Lok Adalats at regular intervals have also been taken.

(6) Steps have also been taken for modernization of the judicial infrastructure through computerization of courts. Government is implementing a scheme for computerization of District & Subordinate Courts and for upgradation of the Information and Communication Technology infrastructure of the Supreme Court and the High Courts.

(7) Government has enacted the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 (Act 4 of 2009) which provides for establishment of nearly 5067 Gram Nyayalayas and will bring justice at the door step of the rural people.

Drop in polling percentage

1711. SHRI JAIPRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that voting percentage has decreased during the last general election;

(b) if so, the main reasons for the voters not casting their franchise;

(c) whether Government would consider the option of compulsory voting; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) A Statement showing the figures relating to total electorate, total no. of votes polled and percentage of votes polled in general elections to Lok Sabha held from 1952 to 2009 as provided by the Election Commission of India is attached herewith (*See* below).

(b) The Election Commission of India has intimated that there are no proven/established reasons that can be ascribed to voters not exercising their franchise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The matter of compulsory voting was considered by the Dinesh Goswami Committee on Electoral Reforms and did not favour it.